

NOTE

A New Host Record for *Contarinia geniculati* (Reuter)  
(Diptera: Cecidomyiidae)

Larvae of *Contarinia geniculati* (Reuter) have been reported to prevent seed production in meadow foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis* L.) in Europe and North America and in *A. geniculatus* L. in North America (Barnes 1931, Bull. Entomol. Res. 22: 199–203; Gagné 1989, The Plant-Feeding Gall Midges of North America, Cornell Univ. Press).

Creeping foxtail (*Alopecurus arundinaceus* Poir.) is native to Eurasia and was first recorded in the U.S. in 1935 (Hanson 1972, USDA Agric. Handbook 170, pp. 16–17). Within the past 30 years, it has become an important forage grass in wetlands of the western U.S. and Canada (Hafenrichter et al. 1968, USDA Agric. Handbook 339, pp. 48–50).

In conduct of research aimed at improving seed yields of creeping foxtail, diapausing larvae of *C. geniculati* were first encountered in mature spikelets in field plots at Brookings, SD in August 1989. In late June 1990, adults of *C. geniculati* were reared in the lab from field-collected panicles that ranged in maturity from several days pre-anthesis to several days post-anthesis. Several panicles were examined under low magnification (10X) to determine the effect of *C. geniculati* on seed set in infested spikelets. Immature spikelets containing *C. geniculati* larvae and pupae were

easily identified because the salmon-colored larvae and pupae were clearly visible through the transparent lemma and greenish-white glumes. Spikelets infested by *C. geniculati* did not contain caryopses. Adult females of *C. geniculati* were observed ovipositing in the field in July 1990 into spikelets of recently emerged panicles. Creeping foxtail is somewhat indeterminate, and it appeared that the *C. geniculati* females were concentrating on the small percentage (less than 1%) of the panicles that hadn't reached anthesis by that time. It was not unusual to find 10–15 females ovipositing into a single recently-emerged panicle.

I am currently conducting studies at South Dakota State University to determine the magnitude of creeping foxtail seed destruction by *C. geniculati* in eastern and central South Dakota. Seed destruction of meadow foxtail by *C. geniculati* in Europe has made seed production on that species unprofitable in some areas (Barnes 1930, Ann. Appl. Biol. 17: 339–366).

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